Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 NSC-05 SY-02 CIAE-00 PRS-01 USIA-01 DHA-02 EUR-08 IO-06 SCA-01 PA-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 NSCE-00 L-01 /056 W

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CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 1433

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, ET, US

SUBJ: REPORTED INTERVIEW OF PMAC CHAIRMAN

REF: ROME 3853

1. DEPT WILL HAVE SEEN REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO MENGISTU REPORTED REFTEL. WHILE NO SUCH EXTREME REMARKS HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS HERE, MENGISTU AND ATNAFU DID JOIN IN CALLS FOR "YANKEE GO HOME" AND "DOWN WITH U.S. IMPERIALISM" AT ADOWA DAY PARADE (ADDIS 1264), MENGISTU DID MAKE REFERENCE TO CIA IN HIS SPEECH AT FEB 4 RALLY (ADDIS 0686) AND ATNAFU HAS TWICE REFERRED TO CIA IN CONNECTION WITH EDU, ELF, AND EPRP IN RECENT DAYS (ADDIS 1355 AND 1357). MEANWHILE SCARCELY DAY GOES BY WITHOUT SOME LINKING OF CIA TO EDU ET AL IN MEDIA. OVERALL, VOLUME OF SUCH REFERENCES HAS CERTAINLY INCREASED SINCE EVENTS OF FEB 3.

2. I HAVE NOT YET BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF THESE VARIOUS ANTI-AMERICAN MANFESTATIONS WITH EPMG EXCEPT TO NOTE MENGISTU FEB 4 REF IN AIDE-MEMOIRE PRESENTED TO MOFA ON FEB 22. SUBJECT WAS ALSO MENTIONED IN SEELYE'S CONFIDENTIAL

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CONVERSATIONS WITH ACTING FONMIN AND MINDEF DURING HIS VISIT HERE IN LATE FEB. QUESTION IS WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. MENGISTU'S STATEMENTS ARE AT OBVIOUS VARIANCE WITH REPEATED ASSURANCES OF EPMG DESIRE FOR FRIENDSHIP WE RECEIVE THROUGH MOFA. MOREOVER, IN CURRENT TENSE ATMOSHPERE IN ADDIS, INCREASED REFERENCES TO CIA ARE OF CONCERN TO ME IN TERMS OF SECURITY OF AMERICANS. MOFA

HAS ASKED US TO CLARIFY WHERE EPMG STANDS IN WAKE OF HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH MAP (ADDIS 1370). IN CONSIDERING REPLY, DEPT MAY WISH INSTRUCT ME TO INQUIRE WHETHER "LA REPUBLICA" INTERVIEW IS AN ACCURATE REPORT OF CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND IF SO TO POINT OUT THAT IT HARDLY SQUARES WITH ASSURANCES MOFA HAS BEEN GIVING US. MEANWHILE, IF DEPT CONCURS, I CAN CONTINUE EFFORTS TO SEE MENGISTU DIRECTLY AND ATTEMPT TO ELICIT HIS VIEWS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS OR, FAILING THIS, WRITE HIM A LETTER PRESENTING OUR CONCERNS WITH REQUEST THAT IT BE FOLLOWED UP BY MEETING TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE. BEFORE APPROACHING ETHIOPIAS, HOWEVER, I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO DEPT CAN PROVIDE ON WHAT MENGISTU REFERS TO AS "SPENCER REPORT." I AM AWARE SPENCER TESTIFIED BEFORE CLARK COMMITTEE LAST SUMMER, BUT MENGISTU'S REMARKS APPEAR TO REFER TO AN EARLIER REPORT WHICH UNKNOWN TO US. SPENCER HAS BEEN GIVEN GOOD DEAL OF UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY RECENTLY IN MEDIA FOR HIS "REPORT."

3. APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS. TIENKEN

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